

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ANTANA 00669 190914Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 OES-07 EB-08 CG-00 DOTE-00  
HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 SS-15 /073 W  
-----075827 192335Z /70

R 190810Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0416  
INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANTANANARIVO 0669

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PLOS CGEN EWWT MA TW  
SUBJ: ROC SHIP DETAINED IN MADAGASCAR

REFS: (A) ANT A004 (NOTAL), (B) STATE 088683

1. PER PARA 3 REF B, EMBASSY SENT DIP NOTE TO FOREIGN  
MINISTRY APRIL 13 INQUIRING ABOUT WELFARE OF ORIENT LONDON'S  
CREW ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS. HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED  
OFFICIAL REPLY BUT DIRECTOR OF BILATERAL AFFAIRS HAS TOLD  
EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEE THE FOLLOWING: CREW MEMBERS MUST  
REMAIN ON BOARD EXCEPT FOR OCCASIONAL TRIP TO SHORE (TAMATAVE)  
UNDER HEAVY GUARD. THEY ARE RECEIVING FOOD FROM A LOCAL  
SHIPPING AGENT. EXCEPT FOR THE ONE DEAD CREW MEMBER, THE  
CREW IS APPARENTLY IN GOOD HEALTH. THE DIRECTOR OF BILATERAL  
AFFAIRS IS STILL WAITING FOR MORE PRECISE DETAILS, AND ONE LOCAL  
EMPLOYEE BELIVES THAT WE WILL EVENTUALLY RECEIVE A FORMAL  
REPLY TO OUR DIP NOTE.

2. CHARGE BARRETT VISITED TAMATAVE IN LATE MARCH AND REPORTED  
AS FOLLOWS IN PARA 11 REF A, QUOTE: THE LATEST SUBJECT IS  
THE CARGO SHIP ORIENT LONDON WHICH WAS BROUGHT DOWN FROM  
DIEGO SUAREZ THREE WEEKS AGO. THIS TAIWANESE-CREWED SHIP,  
OF DOUBTFUL OWNERSHIP AND SAILING ON EXPIRED PANAMANIAN  
REGISTRY, WAS TAKEN INTO DIEGO SUAREZ LAST JUNE AFTER IT  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ANTANA 00669 190914Z

ENTERED MALAGASY WATERS IN DISTRESS OFF THE ISLAND OF NOSSY BE.  
IT WAS CARRYING RHODESIAN CHROME, LOADED IN MOZAMBIQUE, AND  
CERTAIN CONTACTS BETWEEN THE SHIP AND THE MALAGASY SHORE AROUSED  
THE SUSPICION OF MALAGASY AUTHORITIES. AN ENGLISH SALVAGE  
CAPTAIN, WHO BROUGHT THE ORIENT LONDON INTO DIEGO, IS IN JAIL  
BECAUSE OF HIS CONNECTION WITH THE SHIP, AND HIS ATTORNEY, WHO  
CAME FROM LONDON TO FREE HIM, HAS ALSO BEEN JAILED. RUMOR IS

THAT THERE ARE ARMS SUSPECTED TO BE UNDER THE CHROME ORE. THE  
SHIP SQUATS LIKE AN OBSCENITY IN THE ANCHORAGE, AT A FIVE  
DEGREE LIST, IN FULL VIEW OF THE WHOLE TOWN. THE ORE IS BEING  
LIGHTERED OFF AND INFORMED OPINION IS THAT IT WILL TAKE OVER A  
YEAR TO UNLOAD AT THIS RATE AND THAT THE ORE WILL BE SOLD  
TO NORTH KOREA. ALL DAY SMALL BOATS ARE GOING FORTH BETWEEN  
IT AND THE OIRT PORT, OSTENSIBLY TO SERVICE AND RELIEVE THE 40-MAN  
ARMED GUARD ABOARD. DOMINATING THE HARBOR BY ITS CENTRAL  
LOCATION, THE ORIENT LONDON IS THE SUBJECT OF CONSTANT SPECULATION  
IN...TAMATAVE. UNQUOTE.SMITH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SHIPS, DETENTION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978ANTANA00669  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780168-0316  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** ANTANANARIVO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780442/aaaabjdv.tel  
**Line Count:** 72  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 40998bab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 88683  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2925000  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ROC SHIP DETAINED IN MADAGASCAR  
**TAGS:** PLOS, CGEN, EWWT, MA, TW  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/40998bab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014